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### Author's Biographies

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## Author's Biographies

## AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

**Michael Browning** is a senior Political Science major. He currently works for the City of Bloomington Legal Department and enjoys the public service aspect of his job. His research interests focus on the Supreme Court of the United States, especially in relation to public opinion. His work is fueled by his belief that in a constitutional democracy, it is vital to question if the law truly is anonymous and above the people, or if it is subject to the times and popular sentiment. Michael is also an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan, and enjoys spending time pursuing his interests in music and politics. In the near future, Michael plans to attend law school to pursue his strong interest in constitutional law and human rights.

**Jennifer Biess** is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University, and will graduate in May of 2011 with a double major in Political Science and Sociology. She interned in the Scottish Parliament researching affordable housing issues in the Highlands, and participated in the summer internship program at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC). She is a member of various groups on campus, including Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. After graduation, Jennifer plans to pursue a career and further her education in policy research.

**Sara Ghadiri** graduated in December 2010 with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy and a minor in Music. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she served on the Executive Board for Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity, as Vice President for Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, and was a former Editor of *Res Publica*. Sara spent the summer of 2009 in Iran collecting data for the project published in this journal, and it was accepted and presented at the 2011 Illinois Political Science Association Conference. Sara will be attending University of Iowa College of Law this fall where she hopes to pursue a JD with a concentration in International Law.

**Amy Uden** is a senior Political Science major and History minor, and works as a Political Science Lab Assistant. She has been involved in several campus organizations, including Pi Sigma Alpha, Phi Beta Kappa, and other honors societies, as well as music groups, College Republicans, and especially DRL campus Christian ministry. Amy also studied abroad in 2009 with the IWU Madrid Program. Her research interests include political theory, religion and politics, and redistricting. She has worked with the McLean County Administrator's office as a Budget Analysis Intern, and hopes to continue to work in state or local government following graduation, along with possibly pursuing a graduate degree.

**Megan Weinstein** is a senior at Illinois Wesleyan University, and will graduate in May of 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Her interests include inter-governmental organizations and peace and conflict reconciliation. Megan participated in the Technos International Week in Tokyo, Japan during the summer of 2009, studied abroad with the European Union program based out of Freiburg, Germany the spring of 2010, and will be traveling to France for May Term of 2011 to study French political culture. Megan also worked with the Lamu Center of Preventative Health as part of an Action Research internship the spring of 2011. After graduation, she plans to return to Europe to pursue her Master's Degree in Global Studies.

**Michael Burgess** is a senior Political Science major with a focus on international and comparative politics. On campus, he participates in Pi Sigma Alpha and is a member of the track team. He studied abroad during the fall of 2009 in Nagoya, Japan. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Master's Degree in International Affairs.

**Chris Schaeffer** is a junior Political Science major from Arlington Heights, IL. Chris has been involved on campus in activities such as club volleyball, and has been the president of his fraternity. He interned this past summer at the U.S. District Court in Chicago. Within political science, his research interests focus primarily on political theory. After graduation, he anticipates either attending law school or graduate school in political theory.